

THE
1509/840
PROTEST.

Quis tulerit Gracchos de Seditiōe querentes?



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T H E
P R O T E S T.

WITH what Assurance designing, or ignorant Men obtrude themselves upon the Public, in Times of Political Commotion, who at other Periods, or upon other Subjects, would be heard with Contempt, or universally disregarded? They are not unlike those Insects, which owe their Being to putrid Flesh, and which could never have received their Existence, had it not been corrupted. Thus the Vanity of One, the Prejudice of Another, and the Malice of a Third, jointly contribute to tolerate and encourage such Men, whom at any other Juncture they would heartily concur to despise,

A 2

spise, or think unworthy their Notice: Thus by a wanton Indulgence of their Passions, abusing their own Reason, misleading the Ignorant and promoting invidious Insinuations; and by this Concurrence with weak or wicked Men, excluding all hopes of Redress, often when Redress is most wanting. It is therefore highly necessary, on all such Occasions, and perhaps now more than ever, that somebody should endeavour to expose the Weakness of dogmatical Assertions, or superficial Reasoning, and detect the Knave or Fool, who by such Arts would secure himself or betray his Country. He then, who ridicules Vanity, stigmatizes the Villain, or eradicates Prejudice, will do more Service in such Times, than he who writes only for the few truly Learned in the National Interest, and honestly intend to pursue it. For this good Purpose I here offer my Mite, and hope my Endeavours may not be intirely ineffectual.

It appears to me that the Writer of a late Weekly Paper comes justly under our Censure, having in my Opinion asserted many Things, that perhaps may suit his Purposes, but which do not carry with them the least

Ap-



Appearance of Reason, or the least Shew of Proof, tho' introduced very pompously with an uncommon Affectation of Learning.

" When Liberty, says he, flourished at
" *Athens* and *Rome*, and held in due Ballance

" the *internal* Powers of those great Repub-

" lics, Eloquence was the Guardian of the

" State." Here it is acknowledged that

Eloquence could not guard the State, but

when Liberty flourished. Then he proceeds:

" With a jealous Eye she beheld every do-

" mestic Enchroachment on one Part of

" the Constitution, by the over-Growth of

" another; and on the least Appearance of

" Danger from Foreign Enemies, she im-

" mediately took the Alarm, and warded off

" the impending Mischief. No *Emergence*

" could happen in their Affairs either at

" Home or Abroad, but it was instantly

" seized with a Patriot Spirit." By what

follows, it will appear that all this is but

vague, inconsistent Declamation. " If the

" Ambition of *Philip* held at naught the

" most sacred Treaties, and like a Modern

" *most Christian King*, formed Projects of

" universal Conquest, a *Demosthenes* stepped

" forth, and thundered out his immortal

" Energy."

" Energy." Yet at this very Time, Liberty
 did not flourish at *Athens*, but was much in
 the decline, nor could the Eloquence of
Demosthenes prevent the Incroachments of
Philip, much less guard the State: For
 his Eloquence could not persuade his
 Countrymen to a *proper Change of Mea-*
sures, or a Reformation of Abuses, being cor-
 rupted by selfish Views, or factious Prin-
 ciples. What he says of *Rome* is equally
 vague and inconclusive: For if Liberty flour-
 ished at *Rome* and Eloquence guarded the
 State, there would not certainly be "fre-
 " quent Mismanagement in the Conduct of
 " a *Mitbridatic War*, Disgrace brought upon
 " the *Roman Name*, *their* Revenues unpro-
 " fitably squandered, *their* Armies defeated,
 " and *their* Ships insulted in the *Mediterra-*
 " *nean*," nor could a *Tully* with all " his
 " great Powers of Persuasion" prevent the
 " domestic Encroachments on one Part of
 " the Constitution by the Overgrowth of
 " another;" for Liberty in his Time, as every
 School-boy knows, did not flourish in *Rome*;
 for Liberty was then indeed but a meer
 flourish, as it is now in other States. What
 kind of reasoning, think you, can be drawn
 from

from such Premises? I assure you the Super-structure is as bad as the Foundation. " This " was the splendid and honourable Office of " Eloquence in the *Greek* and *Roman* States." What an Affectation of Learning is here? But to what Purpose? None that I know of, but to shew a great deal of Disingenuity or Ignorance: For it is notorious that *Cæsar*, and many others, made indeed a splendid, but not an honourable Use of it. " But I do not " recollect an *Æra* in the *History* of *those* " *two wonderful Forms* of Government." The History of their Forms conveys only an Idea of the Growth of their Constitutions, and the Laws that formed their Governments: He would say, the History of those wonderful Empires, but that would not be eloquent enough, for one whose Subject is Eloquence: Again, the Forms were not so wonderful, but the Administration for some Ages really was so; which in my Opinion differs widely from the Forms.

The Incorrectness of this Gentleman's Stile and Incoherence of his Reasoning, are both equally remarkable. In the first Sentence he says, that when Liberty flourished, Eloquence guarded the State; and in a few Lines
after,

after, as we may see by the Quotations from his Paper, he lumps the Histories of the *Greek and Roman wonderful Forms of Government* without any Distinction; for Liberty did not always flourish, when “Eloquence thundered out her immortal Energy;” and Eloquence, instead of guarding the State when Liberty flourished, often conspired the Destruction of Liberty; and though the Masters of Eloquence exerted themselves often for the Good of their Country, they did not always succeed, as I have before observed; but the following Sentences are remarkable for their Precision and Elegance. “I do not remember a Period, when Eloquence degraded herself, even as low as “the worst Accomplices of *Asiatic Tyranny* (what an unjust Insinuation, and what an unnatural far-fetched Comparison?) “and “acted the Part of a *Mute*, while a shameful Murder was doing on the Honour of “an aged King, and the Welfare of *an whole People*.” Is he here speaking of the *Greek and Roman* States in particular, or of Mankind in general; if of the former, he ought to know, that Eloquence was but little known while Kings reigned in *Rome*; and

and that it was during the Republic she exalted her Voice often both for and against, and died gradually along with her Parent and Protectress Liberty; but it would certainly strain his Memory to find out what King or Kings reigned in *Athens*, and that too when Eloquence flourished. But if he speaks of Nations in general (which I can't suppose, without thinking worse of his Capacity and Eloquence than even of *Henry's* or any other Declaimer's living or dead) he need not harass his Memory to find such a Period but in a few Nations; for the Majority of Mankind know neither the Use nor Abuse of Eloquence: And among those few, he, or somebody for him, will find Periods, when Eloquence hath degraded herself and hath been an Accomplice in the Murder, not of the Honour of Kings, but of Kings and of the Welfare of the People; but for the particular Circumstance of an *aged King* and doing a Murder on his Honour, I believe indeed his Recollection may fail him before he can produce an Instance, though he would insinuate such a Thing was done, while Eloquence acted the Part of a Mute, &c. But in one Thing perhaps he may oblige the

B. Public;

Public; that is, by letting them know who they were who exerted this *Asiatic Tyranny*, with whom Eloquence was an Accomplice. But he goes on: "Let me add further; I cannot call to mind a *Conjuncture* in the Annals of Antiquity, when Eloquence, after having remained tongue-tied in a profound and unfeeling Taciturnity; (if she was tongue-tied, it is no way strange that she remained in a profound Silence; and if she continued in an unfeeling Taciturnity, I am apt to think her Silence would not encrease in Profundity by tongue-tying) at length *ungagged* herself, to bawl aloud for Places and wealthy Employments for herself and the *whole Train* of her Brothers, her Cousins, and all her Kindred." Another Instance of the Gentleman's no Memory and crafty Insinuations, which I have before sufficiently animadverted to; but I am obliged to him, as many others will no doubt be, for his before unheard-of Discovery: For whoever knew that Eloquence had either Brothers or Cousins until now? But a *whole Train* of them is the D—l and all; and is enough to alarm the Nation, for which good Purpose this Gentleman vouch-

vouchsafes to communicate his new Discoveries: Indeed I have heard that Poetry, Music, Painting, &c. are somewhat related to Eloquence; but those are of the female Race, and could no Way serve the Gentleman's Purpose.

What he says of *Demosthenes* and *Tully* is meer common-Place Declamation, high-sounding and gigantic Words without any Meaning or Application, intended however to warp our Opinions, alarm our Fears, and create Prejudices against the Changes which his Majesty hath thought convenient to make in the Administration: "*Demosthenes*, says " he, was never known to concur with a " corrupt Ministry, artfully waiting for " some black Period of Ruin, Infamy and " Disappointment (what a dreadful Situation are we in, if this be true?) when " he might come forth, and trampling upon " the Losses of his Country, find a Way to " a Seat of *despotic Power*, even in a State " that boasted of its Freedom." What a time-serving Traytor must he be who can do this? And what Name that Man deserves, who would insinuate that any one hath been guilty of such monstrous Wickedness, if he

cannot prove that he can give sufficient Reasons for such Insinuations, I shall leave to the Determination of the Public. “ In like
 “ Manner (he proceeds) no Man can point
 “ out to me that *Tully* ever took Advantage
 “ of the Distresses of the Republic to make
 “ himself a *Dictator*, and crowd into all the
 “ public Offices, his Brothers, his Cousins,
 “ and his Namesakes.” Very well; then if
 those two Orators never were guilty of those
 atrocious Crimes, is it not rather to be sup-
 posed that another may be as innocent and
 perhaps as meritorious, than to insinuate any-
 thing to his Disadvantage, until we have un-
 doubted Proofs of his Delinquency? But the
 Writer of the *Test* would have us suppose
 the contrary, by his new Negative Way of
 arguing: His Majesty and the Nation how-
 ever differ somewhat from his Opinion; and
 any Man who would find a Way to *despotic*
Power without their Consent, would soon
 fall a Sacrifice to his Ambition; but to sup-
 pose that he can attain it with their Consent,
 would be to carry the Point a little too far.
 But he may answer that the King and the
 People may be deceived, to which I agree;
 but I will never allow that *Faction* and Envy
 shall

shall foment Distrusts as unnatural as unjust, and create Dissentions among a People who are all unanimous for the Extirpation of Party-zeal, and the Bigotry of Prejudice, for the Support of our legal Constitution, the Defence of our Liberties, and the impartial Distribution of Justice,

But to proceed : " I perceive, Conscript Fathers, that at this *Conjuncture* of our Affairs all your Eyes are fixed on me, and therefore unless I am declared *Dictator* of the Republic (he is very fond we should adopt this Word *Dictator*) " I will not serve the Commonwealth, but will remain *unembarrassed*." He gives us half this Sentence in *Latin*, and would the other half if he had it ready to his hand: " Had the Father of his Country ever made this wrong Use of his Popularity, (he who makes a wrong Use of his Popularity cannot be stiled the Father of his Country) how would he have sullied the Dignity of his Character?" Not so; for he would thereby forfeit such a Character: But if there be any one in the Administration who deserves to be stiled the Father of his Country, as I hope there is, I hope also he will never
forfeit

forfeit that Character, and not like *Cicero* remain timid and *embarrassed*, when his Country is in Danger; nor lose his Popularity by becoming the Dupe of any Faction; nor like that great and unhappy Orator, lose his Life by his Irresolution; but by adhering to Justice, and by strenuously asserting the Liberties of the People, generously sacrifice every selfish Consideration for the Sake of redressing public Grievances.

I have marked such Expressions as I thought exceptionable in this Writer, in *Italics*, as my Intention is not so much to cavil with Words, as to expose the Weakness of his Arguments, not designed, as I apprehend, to set us right, but to mislead us. Nor would I have been so particular in my Remarks upon, and in my Objections to him, but that I think one cannot be too minute in Disquisitions that tend to detect those Arts by which we have often been duped, and by which we have often been brought to the Brink of Destruction.

But let us now examine to what Purpose he hath been at all this Trouble to abuse History, adopt Inconsistencies, and propagate Insinuations arrayed indeed in all the
Pomp

Pomp of Words, but, as we have endeavoured to shew, without Justice or Elegance. His Answer shall be in his own Words: "I
 " could wish some late Transactions in this
 " unhappy Island had not excited these Reflections, and given me the Uneasiness of a
 " painful Transition from those bright Patriots, whose public Spirit swallowed up
 " all private Regards, to a *modern Orator*,
 " whose Name suffers a Diminution on account of his personal Attachments, and
 " who at present appears rather the *Founder*
 " *of a Family* than *the Guardian of a State*.
 " I know it is echoed through our Streets,
 " that we have got a *patriot Minister*,—*the*
 " *Minister of the People*—*the first who*
 " *ever entered the Cabinet upon popular Measures*, &c. but sorry I am to say, that in a
 " Nation said to be governed by *King, Lords*
 " *and Commons*, *the supreme Power* seems
 " to be lost in the over-grown Popularity of
 " one Man." A little before he would have
 it thought that we were arrived at a "*black*
 " Period of Ruin, Infamy and Disappointment." This Consideration, one would
 think, of our Situation (if it be so) not indeed brought about by our *modern Orator*,
 should

should rather excite his Attention to those Transactions which brought the Nation into this Ruin, Infamy and Disappointment, and influence him to contribute his Endeavours, like a good Subject, to investigate the Source of our Losses and Misfortunes, and to exert all the Power and Ability he is Master of to redress them: But his Reflections (such as they are!) are excited, not on account of the Disgraces we have suffered, and the Disadvantages we at present lie under, but arise from his Fears (whether real or affected let the Impartial judge) that a modern Orator hath, or seems to have usurped the Supreme Power, though he says in the same Paragraph *the Voice of the People* contradicts him, it being ecchoed thro' our Streets, that we have got a *Patriot Minister*—(we hope so) *the Minister of the People*,—(such a Minister hath been long wanting) *the first who ever entered the Cabinet upon popular Measures*—(no Minister should enter it upon any other Conditions.) He is not the First, however, who hath contradicted and abused the People; but how this Gentleman will acquit himself to the *King, Lords and Commons*, for the good Opinion he seems to have

have of them, and which he would have the Public adopt, I shall leave to Men of more *Ability* than I am, to determine: But my Opinion is, that the Words of the *Test* can convey no other Meaning than this, *viz.* *That the King, Lords and Commons, seem to be either the Dupes or the Tools of this Wicked Orator.* But let me add in the Words of *Swift*, “ I well know with how tender a
 “ Hand all this should be touched; yet at
 “ the same Time, I think it my Duty to
 “ warn the Friends, as well as *expose* the
 “ Enemies of the Public Weal; and to begin
 “ preaching up *Union*, upon the first Suspi-
 “ cion that any Steps are made to disturb
 “ it.”

I apprehend this Gentleman hath read the Examiners, wrote by the above mentioned Author, to very little Purpose, whom he, with the rest of the Crowd, is pleased to acknowledge to be a sensible Author; for which they can plead Prescription, but not Reason; as it plainly appears by this Gentleman's Misapplication or Misunderstanding of *Swift's* Reflections. I should be glad he would vouchsafe to imitate him; but as I have reason to think that impossible, I would

recommend it to him, to endeavour to learn from him, if that too be not impossible. It appears also to me, that he very unluckily exposes himself by the very Mention of this esteemed Writer: For the *worthy Dean*, making use of the Expressions quoted by *Mr. Test*, speaks of a Ministry, who raised and supported themselves by Faction; by calumniating the Friends of the Constitution and of Liberty; by abusing the Prerogative of the Crown; by invading the Rights of the Subject; by attempting dangerous Innovations in the State; by broaching Doctrines of Rebellion and Tyranny; by treating their Sovereign with Insolence, selling and engrossing all her Favours, and deceiving her by base Misrepresentations of the most knowing and most faithful of her Subjects. Such were the Men whom this honest Patriot hath handed down with inglorious Fame to Posterity; and such the Men who, in spite of his acknowledged Superiority in the political World, have since his Time, by the same sinister Arts, reduced these Kingdoms to those very Distresses, which his prophetic Insight would have guarded against. The Words therefore taken from *Swift* by
 Mr.

Mr. *Test*, are undoubtedly applicable, but not where he expects they should be applied, without being guilty of the grossest Partiality and greatest Injustice.

It is well known with what Care *Swift* hath endeavoured to explode all invidious Distinctions, to *expose* the Designs of all those who make a Tool of the Bigotry of mistaken Zealots, and to detect the hypocritical Knave, who under the Cloak of Sanctity or Patriotism, would re-kindle the dying Sparks of Faction, and awaken the sleeping Enthusiast; by alarming on the one Hand the Honest Spirit of Resentment, so peculiar to our Nation, and on the other by *angling* with squeamish Consciences; making both answer every Measure, however inconsistent with Honesty or Prudence, or variable in themselves, which may suit a private Interest, or gratify the Malice of a cankered Heart. The Labours of this worthy Patriot have opened the Eyes of Many; and well had it been for *England*, if the Measures he advised were since pursued: but, alas! the Tricks of designing Men were too effectually played off, by opening old Sores and reviving old Diffentions; by explaining

the Words *Whig* and *Tory*, as they thought would best answer their Purposes, and by changing Sides as often as was necessary; Contrivances which have been used to the most diabolical Purposes, and which none but Fools and Villains have ever practised! Those Tricks I say have been so effectually played off, that by means of them, Power hath been engrossed for many Years, by Men who have brought the Nation almost to the Brink of Ruin; and still practising the same Arts, endeavour to bury in Oblivion their own Misconduct and our Distresses, by accusing every Man who attempts a Reformation, of pursuing those very Measures, by which they forced themselves into Employment, and for which they were kicked out; and which the Gentleman at present under our Examination, doth with unusual Confidence, in the very Motto of his Paper :

“ *We know the Arts we us’d before,*
 “ *In Peace and War, and something more;*
 “ *And by th’ unfortunate Events*
 “ *Can mend our next Experiments;*
 “ *For when we’re taken into Trust,*
 “ *How easy are the Wisest Chouft ?”*

It

It is very easy to perceive the Drift of this Quotation from our admired *Hudibras*; the Author of the *Test* expects that the Public will apply it to our *Modern Orator*; but can there be the least Appearance of Justice, in applying it to a Man from whose past Conduct we have a great deal to hope, and whose Name hath as yet suffered nothing but through Misrepresentation? On the contrary, I am afraid these Lines are but a true Picture of the *Test-Man's* Heart, and perhaps too, of his Conduct.

'Tis a strange Infatuation surely to affect a Familiarity with our Betters, only to expose our own Nakedness, and make ourselves more contemptible, not having a sufficient Acquaintance with them, or Merit enough to recommend us. What a scurvy Acquaintance hath Mr. *Test* contracted with *Demosthenes* and *Cicero*, and the Times they lived in? But as those Orators are long since dead, as well as the Governments under which they flourished; and as Tyrants, *Goths* and *Vandals* over-run their respective Countries, when the Administration became Venal and Corrupt; so *Demosthenes* and *Cicero* being now so many Ages in their Graves,

every

every Sophister or Pedant, equally Ignorant or Tyrannical, abuse them with the utmost Confidence, to the Discredit and Subversion of Literature, and the no small Mortification of the truly Learned. But any one that abuses the Memory of *Butler* or *Swift*, by torturing the Meaning of the Words of those two great and honest Men, should not be suffered to escape with Impunity, not only for the Sake of Justice, but also on account of that Reverence, which as honest Men and as fellow Country-Men, we should preserve for their Memory: And having some literary Knowledge of *Hudibras*, as well as of the Author of *Gulliver's Travels*, and having quoted the latter, in Contradiction to our *Test-Man's* political Errors and Misrepresentations; I must now take leave to make a Quotation from the former, in Contradistinction to his Motto, and which I hope will be allowed to be as well chosen and as applicable as his own, and may serve him not only for a particular, but a general One.

*But W——m—— P——t gave him a Twitch
As quick as Lightning in the Breech,*

Just

*Just in the Place where Honour's lodg'd,
As most Philosophers have judg'd.*

HUDIBRAS.

Hinc illæ Lachrymæ !—————

But as the *Test-Man* has made free with the Words of *Swift*, I hope I may be allowed the same Privilege, especially as I have not the least Intention to misapply them or misrepresent his Meaning: The following therefore seeming very apposite to this Writer's Conduct, and perhaps to that of his Patron's, I have singled it out on Purpose, as every Reader can make the Application.

" It is, I think, a known Story (*says that sensible Author*) " of a Gentleman who
 " fought another for calling him a *Son of a*
 " *Whore* ; but his Mother desired her Son
 " to make no Quarrels upon that Subject,
 " *because it was true.* For pray, Sir, doth
 " it not look like a Jest, that such a pernicious Crew, after draining our Wealth,
 " and discovering the most destructive Designs, *or the most unpardonable Incapacity*;
 " instead of thanking Fortune that they
 " are got off safe in their Persons and Plunder (*that is not yet decided*) should hire
 " those Bullies of the Pen, to defend their
 " Repu-

“ Reputations, by every Art and Infimulation;
 “ but especially by attacking the most Eminent
 “ and Praise-Worthy in the Kingdom? I re-
 “ member I thought it the hardest Case in
 “ the World, when a poor Acquaintance of
 “ mine, having fallen in among Sharpers,
 “ where he lost all his Money, and then
 “ complaining he was cheated, got a good
 “ beating into the Bargain, for offering to
 “ affront Gentlemen. I believe the only Rea-
 “ son why those Purloiners of the Public,
 “ cause such a Clutter to be made, is to pre-
 “ vent Inquisitions that might tend towards
 “ making them Refund, or render them
 “ Accountable to their Country: Like those
 “ Women they call *Shop-lifters*, who when
 “ they are challenged for their Thefts, ap-
 “ pear to be mighty angry and affronted,
 “ for fear of being searched.”

But to proceed: “ I am of Opinion, we
 “ shall find that the Arrogance of the *Whig*,
 “ Ministry towards their Sovereign *Q. Anne*,
 “ by introducing into the Court Stile certain
 “ Phrases, which were never made Use of
 “ in former Times, such as, *Madam I can-*
 “ *not serve you while such a one is in Employ-*
 “ *ment. — I desire humbly to resign my*
 “ Com-

" *Commission, if Mr. ——— continues Se-*
 " *cretary of State.—I must not accept of the*
 " *Seals unless ——— comes into the other Of-*
 " *fice, &c.*" It will be found, I say, that
 those very Phrases have been as arrogantly
 made use of by the Men who have since suc-
 ceeded both to the Places and Politics of the
 said Administration; by which they have
 created to themselves such a Monopoly of
 Power (by the Assistance of the Moneyed-
 Interest, the great Source of our Venality
 and Corruption) as for many Years past hath
 counter-ballanced the Voice of the People,
 and hath often so effectually silenced that
 supreme Law, that I can compare the whole
 Tenor of their Conduct to nothing so appo-
 sitely as to the Tyranny of an authorized
 Banditti, such as the *Roman* Legions in the
 Decline of that glorious Empire, or the
 Forces that *Cromwell* duped to sacrifice the
 King and Kingdom, first to gratify his Am-
 bition, and in the End to save himself; or in
 fine, to the Tyranny practised in the Re-
 publick of *Athens*, where the Orators, who
 were called Demagogues (which is a Word
 somewhat analogous to that of Parliament
 Men) incensed the People to so many unjust

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Violences, that at length the Government became meerly popular; which of all Forms of Government (for such many have become by the Abuses crept into their original Constitutions) is most liable to Corruption, and favourable to the most cruel and barbarous Slavery, *the Tyranny of the many*; who misled by their Prejudice, or biased by their Interest, or sunk in Luxury, became Slaves to that very Power entrusted to them for the Good of the Community, by abusing it. Can *the Name of a modern Orator* suffer any Diminution equal (and I hope it will none) to what those of his Predecessors have suffered long since, from the Censure of the Judicious and Honest, and of late by a Dismission from their Places so long wished for; and I hope Time enough resolved upon, and properly filled up to save the *Honour of our aged King*, and the Reputation of a once glorious Empire; which can only be accomplished by a total Change of Measures, so long, so justly, and yet so ineffectually complained of; Measures never pursued but to serve private Aims, or for temporary Emoluments, or to gorge the present Gratifications of a wanton and insatiable Luxury, which sinister and un-

manly

manly Pursuits, would have been long since detected, but for the Mists of Prejudice, which those Slaves of an unweildy and ill-acquired Power have always raised to cloud our Intellects; the known and invariable Tenor of all their Arts and Insinuations being, that every Man who would serve the Community, in Opposition to them, was an Enemy to his Country, and to every Revolution, (no Matter whether good or bad, so it served their Purposes) in the Government, or in the Administration.

*En, quò Discordia Cives
Perduxit Miseros!*

Men who have acquired Power and Possessions without Ability to maintain the one, or any just Pretensions to the other, can never support themselves but by Misrepresentation and Injustice.

The different Sects of Religion have for many Ages past made it a Part of their Duty, as well as of their Interest, to stigmatize their Opponents, by such invidious and inflammatory Distinctions as best suited their Prejudices, or supported them in their Pretensions or Acquisitions. But in those King-

doms this Practice hath of late Years been so serviceable to ambitious or wicked Men, that a Revival of it is always attempted in Times of political Commotions; almost all Men of all Denominations concurring to affect the Names of *Whig* or *Tory*, without fixing any certain Meaning to the Words, only as they may serve to advance any private Scheme, or to favour Prejudices ignorantly or designedly propagated, and as implicitly received. Shame! That Religion, which we boast so much of improving; that Liberty which we claim as our Inheritance; that Humanity which distinguishes us among the Nations; and that Morality which hath enlightened and refined our Ideas, which by freeing our Reason hath improved our Manners, and gives a true Relish to all the Enjoyments of Life;—Strange! that the Degree of Perfection which those glorious Acquisitions have enabled us to attain, should not at the same Time capacitate us to throw off the Yoke, which Superstition, Prejudice, Ignorance or Malice have so long inflicted on us. Is it not Time to forget all those hell-born Feuds and self-destroying Animosities which have so long wasted us? Can that Man have common Sense or common Honesty;

Honesty; can he be a Friend to his Country who would revive them? No longer therefore suffer the native Honesty of your Souls to be duped by unnatural Distrusts, and mean Insinuations; no longer suffer Villainy or Enthusiasm to sow Discord among Men, who should be for ever united in one common Interest; for when divided, what dreadful Devastation hath not every foreign or domestic Invader spread throughout your Dominions? Be unanimous, and save yourselves from Ruin, from civil Diffentions, and intestine Divisions; be unanimous, and command the subject Ocean, and the Respect of humbled Nations: Leave it to others to contend for Forms and Changes of Government, and religious Formalities; but do you for ever remember what one of your admired Teachers hath so often enforced and so strongly preached to you, that "whatever is best administered is best;" for this alone contend; and this the Laws of your Country entitle you to.

Before I proceed, it may not be improper here to answer some Objections which have been made to this Line of Mr. Pope's. It is said that it is indeed a pretty flowing
Line,

Line, like all the rest of that Writer's, and very luckily serves to make out the Rhime : This is but a vague Censure, in the Opinion of those, who are acquainted with that Gentleman's Works. But it is objected, that a bad Government can never be so well administered as a better ; nay, that it must be always badly administered (that is, speaking comparatively of a better.) To prove this, the arbitrary and indeed unjustifiable Proceedings of *France* in *Arrets*, *Lettres de Cachet*, &c. the Inquisition in *Spain* and *Portugal*, and the tyrannical Usurpations of *Rome*, are produced as Facts conclusive of the Argument. To which I answer, that the Disadvantages which those Nations lie under, are for the most Part, confined to a particular Sett of Men under each Government, and that the Misery or Slavery which the People are subjected to, under the bad Administration of those bad Governments, is often not so deplorable, destructive and tyrannical, as what Men may suffer under the best of Governments in the Hands of a bad Administration.

Diodorus Siculus hath a very remarkable Passage in his 12th Book, C. 102. " The
 " People were so excessively enraged, being
 " incensed

" incensed by their Orators, contrary to all
 " Justice and Equity, that they vented their
 " Fury upon Men, who not only deserved
 " no Punishment, but even merited the
 " greatest Commendations and Marks of
 " Honour."—How often this hath been the
 Case in *England*, let the Murders of *Raleigh*,
Sidney, *Charles Steuart*, &c. testify. Those
 Men whom the Historian speaks of, who
 were sacrificed to the Cabals of interested
 Men influencing the popular Fury, were six
 Commanders of the *Athenian* Fleet, which
 had beaten that of *Lacedæmon*. There
 were ten of them in all, chosen in the Room
 of *Alcibiades*, and commanded by *Thrasylbulus*,
 four of whom escaped: but those six, tho'
 they had signalized themselves on this and
 many other Occasions, were put to Death in
 such a Manner as rendered that Iniquity most
 execrable; so that perhaps such an enormous
 Thing was never seen under the most de-
 spotic Monarchy. What they alledged in
 their Defence was not at all minded. *Soc-
 rates* himself (as *Xenophon* records) opposed
 that Iniquity vigorously, but in vain. *Dio-
 demon* spoke for all, and instead of Impre-
 cations and Complaints, instead of setting
 forth

forth their Services paid with Ungratefulness, he was contented to wish that their Death might prove happy to their Country.

Why then should this Sort of Men (as the Demagogues) go by such a Name as *Orators*? an Orator is defined, *an honest Man who understands the Art of Speaking; Vir bonus dicendi peritus* (Quint. l. xii. c. 1) The Name of Orator or Speaker ought not therefore to be given to a turbulent, factious and wicked Man, who uses his Eloquence and the Strength of his Lungs to move the People to Violence. The illustrious *Bayle* hath remarked, in more than one Place, That *T. Hobbs* undertook the Translation of *Thucydides*, to put the *English* out of conceit with the Republican Spirit; and he goes on to remark, that it was well thought of: but it had been better still, if he had written a Book concerning the internal State of *Athens*. The History we have of that People is only fit to impose upon us; We are charmed with the *fair Side* of it: We are dazzled with the Battles of *Marathon* and *Salamis* (of *Blenheim* and *La Hogue*) with *their Land and Sea Forces; their Conquests; the Wealth of the Inhabitants; the Pomp of their public Shews;* and

and the *Magnificence of their public Buildings*. All these Things induce Men to think, that to live under another Form of Government is to be a Slave. But if we had a History, which should but touch upon those Things, and set forth at large the *Tumult of their Assemblies*, the *Factions which divided the City*, the *Seditions wherewith it was agitated*, the most illustrious Subjects persecuted, banished (as *Thucydides* was, according to *Cicero*) and punished with Death at the Will of violent *Harangue-makers*, we should be convinced that the *Athenians*, who boasted so much of their *Liberty*, were in Truth but Slaves to a few *factionous Men*, and who made them turn sometimes one Way, sometimes another, according as their *Interests or Passions* changed; as the Sea is agitated by the Winds, which Way soever they blow. If you examine into the History of *Macedonia*, which was a Monarchy, it will not afford you so many Examples of Tyranny, as the History of the *Athenians* will.

It is a judicious Remark of *Thucydides*;
 " That City which is governed by the worse
 " Laws, but those firm and stable, is in a
 " safer Condition than the City, where the

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" Laws

“Laws are better and more eligible in their
 “original Institution, but where they are
 “administered in a loose and fluctuating
 “Manner.” Is it not high Time to attend
 to this wise Reflection, having experienced
 for many Years past the Truth of it, by the
 many Losses we have suffered, and the Dis-
 advantages we now lie under, while *France*
 is every Day encreasing her Power and ex-
 tending her Influence, and undauntedly con-
 tending for those Rights and Liberties, which
 we contend for indeed, but with more Osten-
 tation and Shew, than Reality? This Consid-
 eration hath been too carelessly regarded by
 those who have been entrusted with the Ma-
 nagement of Governments; but the Neglect
 is perhaps no where so conspicuous as in the
English Annals: for instead of attending to
 the Duty of Administration, we have so
 over-rated the Perfection of our Constitution,
 that we have often fallen into an unthinking
 Security, from which nothing can rouse us,
 (as History testifies) but an approaching Sla-
 very, or impending Destruction. Hence it
 is that Men of no landed Property, or Men
 inflamed by Ambition, or stimulated by Ava-
 rice,

rice, taking Advantage of popular Commotions, and finding their Interest in every Change, introduce new Systems and promote frequent Revolutions; to compleat which Purposes, howsoever Dangerous, our native Honesty, and generous Confidence have too often contributed.

Every Revolution we have undergone proves the Truth of this Conclusion. Scarce had the unhappy *Charles* attempted Innovation in the Constitution, but he was opposed, and justly. Scarcely was this Opposition begun, when Men of no Property, ambitious or avaricious Men, seized that Opportunity to exalt themselves by other Innovations, as dangerous or more so, than those they pretended to explode; and inflaming the Minds of the People, by every Artifice that Prejudice could aggravate, or Ignorance adopt, they inhumanly dragged the good, tho' mistaken King, to a Bloody Execution; not in the least consulting the Good of the People, but to secure themselves. For scarcely had they established themselves over their bleeding Country, but every Cruelty and unjustifiable Innovation was attempted to maintain their new

acquired Possessions. Scarcely had the *Second Charles* been in Possession of the Throne, when he began to pursue different Measures, in Opposition to the former Incroachments, tho' equally Unconstitutional; which encouraged his bigotted Successor to go still farther, which brought about another Revolution, introduced with Reason, and established with Equity. But scarce had our Deliverer's Title been acknowledged, when Men of neither Property nor Principle, nor consequently of *Ability*, finding their Interest somewhat fallen, and their Power abated by the Justness of the Measures that were pursued, but they began to raise Cabals to ferret themselves once more into the Government, enriching themselves by running the Nation in Debt, encreasing Taxes, and consequently by those Arts engrossed such a Superiority of Power, that they enslaved the Nation more effectually than any of the former Oppressors*. Those Men were of different

* When King *William* (says a late judicious Politician) entered, immediately after the Revolution, on this great Scene of Action; the unencumbered Condition of the

different Persuasions it is true, both in Religion and Politics; but being Men of desperate Fortunes, or dangerous Principles, they could

the Nation (the Public Debts, that of the Bankers included, amounted to little more than £.300,000.) was such, that he might have been supported in it by good Management, as profusely as he was, and even more *effectually*, by the Revenue then subsisting, by a Land Tax, by the Excise on Malt, and by some additional Subsidies, all which would have been raised within the Year. A Scheme of this Kind was prepared and offered. It was allowed to be Practicable, but it was rejected for a Reason that appeared plausible in political Refinement, and hath proved most Pernicious in it's Consequences. It was said that a new Government established against the ancient Principles, and actual Engagements of many, could not be so effectually secured any Way, as it would be if the private Fortunes of great Numbers were made to depend on the Preservation of it; and that this could not be done unless they were induced to lend their Money to the Public, and to accept Securities under the present Establishment (could the *French King* contrive more effectually to Enslave his Subjects?) Thus the Method of Funding and the Trade of Stock-Jobbing began. Thus were great Companies created, the *pretended Servants*, but in many Respects the *real Masters* of every Administration. Thus, continues he, a *Moneyed Interest* being firmly established by this Time, and such Numbers (which are now almost incredibly increased) being accustomed to make immense Profit
at

could only find Advantages (or think they could find them) in frequent Disturbances, and in promoting indiscriminately every Innovation; which at one Time they effected by alarming the People with approaching Slavery, the Pope and the Pretender; and at other Times in the different Vicissitudes of the State (their Interest shifting accordingly) by exclaiming against the Licentiousness of a Republican Spirit, and in fine by adopting every Principle, howsoever inconsistent, that gratified their Ambition or Avarice, indulged their Prejudice, or seemed favourable to their Interest.

The People, to whom Tyranny is always obnoxious in whatever Shape it is introduced, by those Arts were often seduced; nor could they in the End oppose the Power which they too readily entrusted in the Hands of those ungovernable Men, who dreading any Accommodation, as they had

at the Public Expence, there is no room to wonder if we proceeded on the same Plan, until by those Means they established a Power, both *within and out of Doors*, entirely independant of the Constitution.

just

just Reason, took off the King's Head: yet before and after the succeeding Restoration, those were the very Men who first cried out against Republican Principles, who increased the Prerogative of the Crown, and dethroned *James* the Second, by encouraging him to pursue such Measures as his Predecessors never before attempted. Every dispassionate Man will be convinced of the Truth of those Facts, by considering that in all those Com-motions and Revolutions, the Men of Principle and Property in the Kingdom were always the most Moderate, and in Consequence thereof most shamefully neglected or unjustly censured, and often sacrificed to Ministerial Influence and popular Prejudice. Almost all those who adhered to the unhappy *Charles*, lost their Estates, or suffered in one Shape or other; those also who brought about the Restoration (tho' poorly rewarded) were of the same moderate Dis-position, and never encouraged the arbitrary Proceedings that were afterwards pursued: and I hope it will not be denied, that the Revolution was promoted and brought about by Men at that Time of the best Principles
and

and the most Property in the Kingdom, whose Moderation will ever remain a glorious Contrast to the Violence and Cruelty of former Innovators. But Men who find their Interest in embroiling the Affairs of the Nation, soon destroyed the Effects of this Moderation; and by taking Advantage of the People's Fears, which they and their Emis-
saries always kept up, introduced and supported themselves, by very Popular, tho' at the same Time by very sinister Means; ex-
claiming against every Man, who opposed them, by invidious Distinctions, to ingra-
tiate themselves with the Public: but far from pursuing any Moderation, they entered upon the most ruinous Schemes, and run into every Extravagance, while Men of Worth and Capacity were excluded from the Administration, under the Notion of being disaffected, or because they would not concur in such destructive Measures. But our Eyes are at length opened, though by a very severe Experience.

Let us therefore be unanimous; let us be of no Party but one: Let us not condemn any Man for different Principles from our

own; so long as he continues to serve his Country; nor let us any longer be the Dupes of *Factions*, the Support of ignorant, selfish and designing Men, but concur to obviate all Prejudice, and root out the Remembrance of former Distrusts and unnatural Animosities: by those Means you will deprive Faction of her Arms, and lead her defenceless before the Tribunal of Justice, to receive a Punishment equal to her diabolical Purposes.

Those who would sow Dissentions among you, have always a private Interest in View;
 “ they act with the Spirit of Men who be-
 “ lieve their Time is but short; and their
 “ first Care is to heap up Riches at the pub-
 “ lic Expence, in which they have two
 “ Ends, besides that common one of insatia-
 “ ble Avarice; which are to make them-
 “ selves necessary, and to keep the Common-
 “ wealth in Dependance. Thus they hope
 “ to compass their Design, which is, in-
 “ stead of fitting their Principles to the
 “ Constitution, to alter and adjust the Con-
 “ stitution to their own pernicious Princi-
 F “ ples.”

“ples.” * But he who will administer Justice and Moderation, will first reconcile you to each other; he will always consult your dispassionate Opinions and your real Interest, by laying all his Actions and Intentions open to your View; he will need no Majority but what his own Merit, and not your Money will purchase: if any Changes or Regulations are necessary, he knows that the *least violent* are the most salutary, and that the unanimous Voice of the People can alone justify any Innovations, as it will also justify the Consequences; he will not arrogate to himself a greater Share of Wealth or Authority than what you please to allow him: and in fine, if there be any among you the Slaves of Opinions, which may influence your Conduct to the Prejudice of the Community, instead of punishing or injuring you in the least for those Opinions, he will endeavour to set you right, by exhibiting Examples of Moderation and Justice in his Administration, and by gaining your Friendship by his Confidence and Indulgence; and if he

* Examiner, No. 31.

cannot conquer your Obstinacy or moderate your Prepossession, yet will he not desist to serve you, but plead for you, like *Cicero* to his Collegues in Power, to the King and to the People. “ *Nolite igitur in conservandis*
 “ *bonis viris defatigari, non cupiditate præ-*
 “ *sertim, aut pravitate aliquâ lapsis, sed opi-*
 “ *nione officii, stultâ fortassè, certè non im-*
 “ *proba;*” by this Means making them good Subjects.

A few Words more to the Author of the *Test*, and to some others of that Fraternity, and then I shall conclude: Is it worth the while to take Notice of the poor Ridicule and affected Humour; when he says, that he looks with Impatience into every *Gazette* to see what *Mother Osborne* has got; and that he has already (he has been very expeditious really) drawn up Proposals for printing by Subscription the History of *William*, the IVth. Is not this very humorous? What Applause hath it not received from the Junto? I wish Humour was my Talent; but since I cannot pretend to it, I shall keep to my own Sphere. This Gentleman finding that “ every politi-
 “ cal Writer must have his Dream,” he is resolved (being a political Writer as it were)

“ to have his as well as his Neighbours.” To accomplish *this great End*, he went to bed and fell asleep, and *dreamed* a Dream; such was the *mystic* Influence of the *drowsy* God; though in the next Line he attributes that *Influence* to the Pamphleteers and Essay-writers of the Age, and returns them Thanks for it, without paying one Compliment to his *drowsy Inspirer*, which is a little unmannerly, if not ungrateful; for his greatest Enemy must allow that he can *dream* much better than he thinks. But if the Reader will please to turn to No. 25 of *Swift's Examiner*, he will find that this Gentleman has as poorly copied that great Original, as he has before misapplied his Words. *Swift*, indeed, thought his Subject worthy of his waking Ideas; but our Author thinks his fit only to dream of, and perhaps in this he is right; for there is certainly a Difference between the two Writers, the Subjects they treat of, and their Manner of handling them. I have read the fourth and fifth Numbers of the *Test*, and to answer them after the Sample I have given of the third Number, would be only to abuse the Indulgence the Public is perhaps

haps too apt to give to Writers. I shall only remark, that in the fifth he affects a Shew of some Moderation, by which he hopes to insinuate himself into the good Opinion of the People, that he may thereby be enabled to wound the deeper: But in my Opinion this Moderation fits very awkwardly upon him; and he treats every Subject he takes in Hand in so vague and indeterminate a Manner, that in reading his Papers, I have been often put in Mind of the Words I once observed written over the Stall of a poor old Taylor, who could scarcely see, *viz.* "Taylors Work in general," and like him our Author is obliged to go through a Stich more than once, witness his Quotation from *Gordon* and many other Repetitions; but wanting Matter after he has spit his Venom, seems to point out to us his natural Talent; *and like a wounded Snake drags his slow Length along.*

The following Remark might be of some Service to many of our modern Writers, if they would vouchsafe to attend to it: "To quote Authors in a vague and indeterminate Manner hinders us from pointing out several Absurdities, and makes a Person, whether

“ whether Writer or Reader, speak and
 “ think doubtfully. An Author who con-
 “ tradicts himself by using some Expres-
 “ sions which destroy one another, gives an
 “ ill Account of a Fact and deceives his
 “ Reader.” I have endeavoured to point
 out Instances of this in the *Test*, and other
 modern Writers have fallen into the same
 Error.

As there are no People so dangerous as
 those who misrepresent Facts, or endeavour
 to take Advantage of popular Prejudice, it is
 the Duty of every honest Man to detect them
 however insignificant, and set Things in a
 proper light. One of those Men in the
Public Advertiser of the 1st of *December*,
 hath most grossly misrepresented the State
 of the Nation in respect to its Riches, at the
 same Time he endeavours to play off the stale
 Trick of alarming the Fears of honest Men
 by invidious Distinctions. I am sorry to say
 it is the Interest of too many to act in this
 Manner: their Interest has encreased with
 the Growth of Stock-jobbing, while that of
 the Nation has decreased in Proportion. The
 immense Increase of Wealth which this
 Dealer

Dealer in Figures says we have made since the Revolution, is meerly imaginary; and in our present Situation the more Wealth there is in the Nation, the more will it be in the Power of Jobbers, Agents, &c. to distress the People. Whatever Money is in the Kingdom centers in their Hands by our own Mismanagement. Estates and Taxes are mortgaged, Monopoly encreases, and the People, in whose Hands there should be a proportionable Circulation of Money, are beggared; besides, it is well known twenty Pounds now is hardly equal to forty Shillings three hundred Years ago. One Man sells his paternal Estate to pay the Debts his Luxury or Idleness have involved him in; an avaricious Jobber buys it; and to heap up Treasures upon Treasures, that he may purchase more, or have it, to put out on Interest, instead of indulging the poor Tenant, or assisting him, he squeezes all that he can from him, and if there be any Manufacture established in the County, he endeavours all he can to monopolize it himself, or
put

put it into such Hands as will be dependent upon him. For what End the Taxes have been mortgaged for so many Years, let those answer who have had the Management of Affairs in their Hands. Monopoly is the Source of all our Misfortunes; it can make Parliaments and Ministers; those Parliaments and Ministers must keep it up for their own Preservation: The Stockjobber thrives; and into his Hands do we thrust every national Concern; for if he pleases to keep his Money, or lend it to us, we are equally hurt by it. It is well known our Manufactures and Trade at the Death of King *William* were in a much better Situation than they have been since; the People were happy, and Poverty and Distress were unknown to them, because they had wherewithal to maintain themselves and carry on their Business, which will always occasion such a Circulation of Cash as must be ever, and can only be the Support of *Britain*. It is from these Circumstances the Riches of a Nation are known,

known, and not from the Révenue of the Crown levied upon the Credit of the Nation, and furnished by Men who have raised themselves from nothing, by such poisonous Loans. But it is affirmed the People feel no Wants, and lie under no Disadvantages; nothing can be more false. For since King *William's* Time the *French* have underfold us in most Places of the *Levant*, and have carried their Manufactures to such Perfection, that we can scarce cope with them; (but besides our Manufactures, they have taken other Things from us, and threaten to take more;) The Consequence is, that our Poor are encreased; the Manufacturer and the Trader are distressed; not so much by the excessive Taxes as by the Arts which Usurers and Monopolizers make Use of to enrich themselves. One of those worthy Gentlemen in a Neighbourhood, as they swarm every where, shall tyrannize more than any *Turkish* Bashaw: but of those who say that the Nation is richer, happier, &c. than it was formerly, (to which

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neither the Landlord, the Manufacturer, nor Trader, independent of Jobbers, will assent) let us ask how much more happy, how richer, and much more powerful should we have been, if the true Interest of the Nation had not been sacrificed to private Views?

I had almost forgot to take Notice of a Paragraph in the fifth Number of the Test; it is as follows; "at the latter
 " End of *Queen Anne's* Reign, *Mock-patri-*
 " *tism* endeavoured to subvert the Succes-
 " sion by Law established; and failing in
 " that Attempt, has ever since pretended a
 " Zeal for *England*, and the illustrious Per-
 " sonage who still continues to reign in the
 " Hearts of his Subjects." I should not have troubled the Reader with any more Remarks on those Papers, but for the dangerous Tendency of the above Paragraph, and evil Effect it may have upon the Minds of honest Men, if they believe it. Does this Writer imagine that our Minds shall be influenced in our present critical Situation, to forget our Losses and
 Disgraces,

Disgraces, or that we shall grant an *Act* of *Impunity*, and another of *Security* to the Authors of them ; (“ *that the sovereign Authority may be parcelled out among the Faction, and made the Purchase of Indemnity for offending Ministers.*” *) by his reviving old Dissentions, and by leading the Enquiries of the People to remote Objects ? but this is palpably the Design of all his crafty Insinuations, ill-stated Facts, and inconclusive Reasonings. Was it not by those very Arts that that very Ministry was removed which he so unjustly accuses of Mock-patriotism, &c. (It is not improbable but a few among them might be disaffected ;) a Ministry the best and most loyal that *England* has seen for these hundred Years ; a Ministry that retrieved the Glory of the Nation, and would have established the Welfare of the People upon a solid Basis, had they not by these very Arts fallen a Sacrifice to the

* *Swift.*

Faction of desperate Men, who were determined at all Hazards to risk the Safety of the Nation, to gratify their Ambition, their Avarice, and their unconstitutional Principles? They have succeeded; the *bad Effects* whereof almost every Man in *England* can tell; for their Maxims have been continued in Ministerial Succession down to the late discarded —, whose Emissaries bawl abroad, that every Man who attempts a Reformation, only pretends a great Zeal for *England*, like the Mock-patriots at the latter End of the Reign of *Queen Anne*. Whoever the Cap fits let him wear it. There is nothing else in this Test worthy Examination.

FOUR QUERIES.

I. What is the Reason that the People were never indulged the Satisfaction of having a regular Account of the Siege of Fort St. *Philip*, or the Losses they sustained by the taking of that Fortress? Nay, why are the *French* too so silent upon this Head, who never before neglected an Opportunity of boasting of their Conquests, or the Quantity of Ammunition, Stores, &c. they had taken?

II. Is it not as proper to bring those Men to a Tryal, who contrived *Byng's* Sailing to the *Mediterranean*, at the Time, and in the

the Circumstances he was sent,
as to Try *Byng* himself; or
should they not rather be Tryed
before him?

III. Is it not as necessary to think
of retrieving our Grievances
with as much Expedition, as
we would punish the Authors
of them?

IV. For what Services to *England*
or *Ireland* was *H— B—*
S—, of the *H—* of *C—*
in *Ireland*, advanced to Peer-
age and made a Pensioner?
and who was *Corruption's* Tool
to make him a Court Profelyte?
—That noble Youth in whose
Praise the *Test* is so lavish.

I have also read the *Sixth Test*, which is but a poor Copy of the Third, poorly copied from the 25th Number of the EXAMINER, and stuffed with Repetition. His Affectation of Impartiality, after being detected in his Misrepresentations, will be easily seen through. This is all I have to say to that Matter.

December the 20th, 1756.

P. S. I have read the succeeding Numbers of the *Test*, and am of Opinion they are no better than the preceding, being no more than a Repetition of the same affected Humour; which he very prudently sticks to as his main Battery; but as an Engineer, without Ball, can make but a harmless Explosion with Powder, so a Humourist without Proofs, or some Foundation in Facts, is fit only to play the Buffoon among Fools, like a Juggler or Mountebank among Children. It would be both ridiculous and impertinent at any Time, but more particularly at this Juncture,

ture, to answer such Papers; besides, when Writers entertain the Public with personal Debates or Invectives, they become very dull and useless. The Writer of the *Test* puts me in mind, of those unnatural Children, who are never so well pleased as at the Sickness of a Parent, in Hopes it may carry him off, that they may come into Possession.—In fine, we have complained of many Grievances, every Paper that appears is full of them; but what Service will this be to the Nation if we know not the Source of those Evils, or if we are left in Ignorance as to the Means of Redress? This should be our chief Study, and it is to be hoped that somebody will speedily undertake it. What avails it, but to encrease his Pain, to din the Ears of a dying Man with incessant Repetitions of his approaching Dissolution, if you cannot relieve his Pain, or rescue him from Death?

F I N I S.

